

Director Erwin McEwen

Prior to his appointment, McEwen served as Deputy Director of the agency's Division of Monitoring and Quality Assurance of DCFS since April 2003. This Division is responsible for monitoring private child welfare agencies contracted with DCFS, Agencies and Institutions Licensing, Day care centers and homes, Audits, Performance-based contracts, DCFS Quality Assurance and related responsibilities. In this capacity, he ensured that DCFS and POS staff meet the mandates for ongoing Quality Assurance (QA) and Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) activities. Utilizing standards and processes provided by the Department's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR), the Council On Accreditation (COA), the Outcome Enhancement Review (OER) and the CQI, he ensured that the Department provides positive outcomes for Illinois children and families.

Before his appointment in State government, McEwen served as child welfare administrator at Lakeside Community Committee, where he oversaw four core child welfare programs. He has committed 20 years of service to youth and families in the Illinois social services community, serving at Kaleidoscope, DCFS, Hull House, and Lakeside. McEwen has also served as a member of the Illinois Statewide Foster Parent Advisory Council, the Illinois Child Care Association Board of Directors, the Child Welfare Advisory Committee on Performance-Based Contracting, and the African American Family Commission's Monitoring and Oversight Committee.

McEwen is a recipient of the University of Chicago's Evelyn Harris Ginsburg Memorial Prize from the University of Chicago, the University of Chicago's Elinor Nims Brink Fellowship and the We Care Role Model Award from the Chicago Police Department and Board of Education. McEwen holds a Master's degree from the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration, with a clinical concentration in family systems. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Illinois State University.